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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/707,677	11/07/2000	Alberto A. Lopez		9705

7590 10/15/2003
 Edwin A. Suominen
 LOUIS J. HOFFMAN, P.C.
 14614 North Kierland Boulevard, Suite 300
 Scottsdale, AZ 85254

EXAMINER

PRASAD, CHANDRIKA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 10/15/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

cc

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/707,677	Applicant(s) LOPEZ, ALBERTO A.	
	Examiner Chandrika Prasad	Art Unit 2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 and 25-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 18-23 and 25-29 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 and 30-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The reply filed on 9/5/03 consists of cancellation of claim 24 and remarks related to rejection of claims. The claims are not allowable as explained below.
2. The reply filed on 9/5/03 does not comply with rule 37 CFR 1.121 because claim 29 is missing from the listing of claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Puerner.

Puerner (Figures 1-12) shows a power distribution block having a plurality of parallel conduction paths 32, 34, 36 with electrical conductors for transmitting power, which accept a plurality of types of connectors, each with a plurality of mating interfaces at either ends of the conductive paths and each of the conduction path is electrically and mechanically connected to no more than one connector. The distribution block is housed in a shell 24.

5. Claims 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Weber.

Weber shows a first portion 3 of conductive material having a circular hole and a second portion 2 of a nonconductive material with a rectangular hole larger in size than the circular hole and coaxial with the circular hole. The holes are dimensioned to receive plurality of wire strands and insulated cable including wire strands.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 4, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Puerner.

Puerner shows all the features of these claims as described in Paragraph 4 above except connectors more than that which can be simultaneously coupled to the conduction paths. The instant invention does not provide any reasons or specific problem to be solved by this feature. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to provide more connectors than that which can be simultaneously coupled to the conduction paths because this would require a mere duplication of an essential part, which involve only routine skill in the art.

8. Claims 6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Puerner in view of Briones et al.

Puerner shows all the features of these claims as described in Paragraph 4 above except a connector having a single interface. Connectors having a single

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interface are well known in the art of electrical connectors. The instant invention does not provide any reasons or specific problem to be solved by this feature. Briones (Figures 1-4) shows a housing with housing sections 3 and 4, which is connected to connectors, each having a single interface. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to provide such a feature because this would provide a means to connect a given conduction path to a single piece of equipment.

9. Claims 7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Puerner in view of Hughes.

Henry shows all the features of these claims as described in Paragraph 4 above except a cable with non-circular cross section. Connectors having a circular or non-circular cables are well known in the art of electrical connectors. The instant invention does not provide any reasons or problems to be solved by having a non-circular cross-section. Hughes (Figures 1-10) shows a connector system with a non-circular cable 121. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to use a non-circular cable because this would provide a thinner appearance as compared to circular cable having the same cross-sectional area as shown by Hughes.

10. Claims 9 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Puerner in view of Yang.

Puerner shows all the features of these claims as described in Paragraph 4 above except the use of fuses. The use of fuses is common knowledge and fuses

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arranged in rows and columns are routinely used in most circuit breakers in households as well as in automobiles. Yang (Figure1) shows an array of fuses arranged in rows and columns. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to use fuses between the conduction paths because this would protect the electrical devices connected to the distribution system.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 18-23 and 25-29 are allowed.
12. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Yang does not show an electrical conductor coupling together the first terminals of a column of receptacles and a second conductor coupling together the second terminals of the same column of receptacles as required by independent claims 18 and 25.

Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-17 and 32 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ruth and Fujita et al. also show features similar to Puerner.

Contact Information

15. Any correspondence to this action may be mailed to:

**Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450**

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Crystal Plaza 4, Fourth Floor (receptionist)

2201 South Clark Place, Arlington, Virginia

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chandrika Prasad whose telephone number is (703) 308-0977.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild, can be reached at (703) 308-2710. The fax number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or processing should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.



Chandrika Prasad
Primary examiner
October 1, 2003